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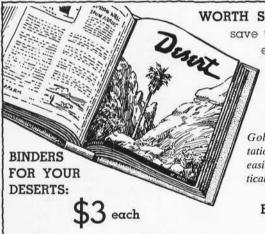
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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Southern Utah ...

To the Editor: It is with great concern that I read the words "improvement" and "development" in your April Southern Utah issue. This magnificent and unique land of time and room enough must not fall victim to the developers' schemes. We Americans have a moral, if no other, obligation to keep at least one wilderness looking as the Creator left it, rather than as man has defiled it. If the primeval virginity of this land is destroyed by those soul-less individuals who would "open it up for the tourist dollar," each one of us has lost something priceless and irreplaceable. We must keep Southern Utah as a place where one can feel himself alone in the universe, and sense, in the stillness and immensity, the overpowering presence of a Something greater than he. Let only those enter the area who appreciate it enough to know that its primitive conditions are a small price to pay for its inspirational majesty! I hope I never live to see the day when its matchless sunsets are fouled by the artificial neon glare of motels, "kiddielands," or "recreation" areas.

ROBERT MICHAEL Claremont, Calif.

To the Editor: A few comments on your April '63 article "Of Ruins, Rocks and Routes":

- 1. It is illegal to collect rocks or other natural artifactual items on the Navajo Reservation without special permits.
- 2. Poncho House was known at least as early as 1875, when it was visited by W. H. Jackson.
- 3. Although the cave may well have been inhabited as early as 600 A.D., the pueblo ruins found there no doubt date largely from the 13th Century.
- 4. As a whole, Poncho House stretches along about 400 yards of cliff, though not continuously. There were probably about 150 or 160 rooms originally, but only about 80 are still identifiable.
- 5. Unauthorized visitors are not allowed to enter Poncho House. A high fence protects it and only the Navajo Rangers and authorized guides have keys to the gate.

STEPHEN C. JETT Window Rock, Arizona

To the Editor: Hurray for DESERT for giving us a wilderness issue that is slanted toward the person who wants to do more than sit by and contemplate the wonders of Southern Utah. Hurray for the dedicated men such as Ken Sleight, Kent Frost, Gene Foushee, Lurt Knee and all the others who boat the rivers and bump over the backtrails, guiding city-bound souls into the healing wilderness. Hurray for mankind who has the capacity and capabilities of some day—perhaps sooner than most conservationists would allow—being able to go into the backcountry and not litter the landscape and not scratch his initials in rocks and not scare off the wildlife.

G. D. LAWREL Fresno, Calif.



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A MOJAVE DESERT SUNSET -"JEWEL IN A JOSHUA." PHOTO BY MAX MAHAN

The Desert in June ...

WILDFLOWER SANCTUARY. Mention the California poppy to anyone who knows the desert, and the thought that immediately comes to mind is the southwestern corner of the Mojave Desert-the bald, rolling landscape west of Lancaster where once, before dry farming, the solid mass of poppies covered tens of thousands of acres of land. Chairman Warren Dorn of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has proposed that a national wildflower sanctuary under the National Park Service be established in the Antelope Valley. The National Monument (which would be L. A. County's first) would cover 20,000 acres of what is now privately-owned land if Dorn's plan is carried out. The wildflower's last desert stand is in the Fairmont area, south of Highway 138. Acquisition cost was estimated at \$4 million.

HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK. On June 4, an estimated 150 people will hop into a third as many jeeps and other four-wheel-drive vehicles for the annual retracing-in-reverse of an historic Southern Utah trail. The starting point is Blanding; the destination is the Colorado River opposite the Hole-in-the-Rock slot down which the ancestors of many of the people participating in this trek took covered wagons, horses and all worldy possessions in 1879. The Mormon pioneers were traveling west to east (reversing, for once, the traditional east to west tide on the continent). According to historian David E. Miller, "No pioneer com-

continued on next page

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pany ever built a wagon road through wilder, rougher, more inhospitable country, still one of the least-known regions in America . . . today their feat seems well-nigh impossible." It was not until April 23, 1959, that five out of a convoy of 15 jeeps made it to the east bank of the Colorado (the west or Hole-in-the-Rock side is accessible to standard vehicles by dirt road from Escalante). Lynn Lyman led this trip, and holds the honor of being the first man ever to drive a jeep to this place. The other drivers were Gene Blickenstaff, Lyle Johnson, Kline Black and Norwood Porter. In 1960 and '61, "unofficial" expeditions again penetrated to the river and by last year interest in the outing had grown to the point where the Blanding Chamber of Commerce took over the sponsorship details. Here's what you must know if you want to participate in the 1963 outing: The convoy will leave Blanding on June 4. The trip will last five days. All persons must provide their own transportation. If you do not have a vehicle, the C of C will provide you with a list of persons who might be able to accommodate you—but you will have to take it from there, making your own arrangements. Any vehicle larger than the small Universal Jeep will not be able to make it all the way to the river. Any four-wheel-drive rig can get as far as the Chute (about 8 miles from the Colorado), and an International Scout or comparable vehicle can go as far as Cottonwood Hill (5 miles from the river). The trip is very rugged. Inexperienced drivers are not urged to attempt it. Extra gas need not be carried; fuel will be sold at Little Mountain. Extra water will be needed. There will be a registration fee that will cover emergency road repairs, boat rides, possibly some meals, etc. Full details from Joe F. Lyman, Blanding Chamber of Commerce, Blanding, Utah.

RIVER BULLETIN. As DESERT went to press, word was received that the San Juan River in southeastern Utah is flowing sufficient water to allow riverrunning this season, at least through early July. It had been reported (in the April DESERT) that "boating on the San Juan has been suspended temporarily because of water impoundment upstream at Navajo Dam." According to Kenny Ross, who operates one-, three-, and eight-day boat trips out of Bluff, Utah, the San Juan was flowing in excess of 1000 cubic feet of water per second (in mid-April) past Bluff. As the run-off from melting snow increases, the San Juan will rise daily until early June. Navajo Dam impounds only a third of the run-off; two-thirds of it coming into the San Juan below the dam.

KING-SIZE OMISSION. In DESERT's May issue there appears a two-page guide to the professional jeep- and boat-men who ply Southern Utah's wilderness. In all, 22 tour operators were listed, their services, rates, etc., detailed. After going to press we learned that there should have been 23 names on our list. The missing guide: Art Greene. This was no ordinary printing slip-up—it was more in the nature of "the blunder-of-the-year," for Art is the man who pioneered power boating in Glen Canyon and the first to receive a National Park Service concessionaire's license to operate in the new Lake Powell recreation area. Here—one month late—is the information that should have been in the May issue: Name of Company: Canyon Tours, Inc. Operator: Art Greene. Mail Address: Wahweap Lodge, Box 1356, Page, Arizona. Services Offered: Lake Powell and Colorado River boat trips to Rainbow Bridge; 3-day trip, \$80 per person; 4-day, \$105; 5-day, \$130; 7-day \$175. Also daily charter trips from Wahweap to Glen Canyon Dam and other scenic points. Season: through October.

JUNE CALENDAR. 8th—Carson Valley Days, Minden, Nevada. 14th-16th—Stagecoach Days (rodeo, parade, Indian Pow-Wow), Palmdale Calif. 21st-23rd—Junior Rodeo, Globe, Arizona. 22nd-23rd—Hesperia Days, Hesperia, Calif.



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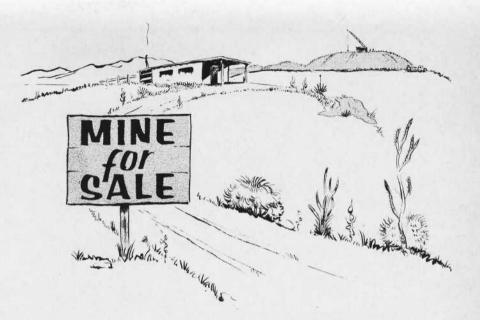
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The most productive turquoise mine in Mexico is in need of a new operator to maintain output of high grade stones

THE slash of his pick in the turquoise deposits near El Rosario some 20 years ago, started Bob Vega on a mining venture which is still in operation. Mountains of tailings at this Baja California location attest to the industry with which Vega has extracted the blue stones from the earth.

The operation has grown from its original one-man pick-and-shovel status to the employment of nine men and the use of modest equipment needed to increase the yield. It is interesting to note that although Vega has directed his ideas and his energies toward the pursuit of turquoise, his only concession to personal adornment with it is a small tie clip set with a small blue stone.

While no match for the Persian mines as Nishapur, this particular mine is of considerable import in Mexico. Its top grade turquoise is channeled into jewelry manufacturers and gift shops.

The mine was originally owned by an American group which began working it in 1929. It was then known as the "American Hole." Several years later it became flooded; interest of the owners declined despite the rich deposits yet untapped. Vega acquired the mine in 1940 and has been working it ever since. In addition to the mining activity, he has at times struck up lively trade with the Indians, dealing in such items as rings, bracelets, wampum, and blankets.

Recently, as Vega planned improvements to increase the mine's output, an incident far removed from the mining activity interrupted his plans and his work. Following an automobile accident, the doctors orders dictated that Vega's mining days were at an end. Anyone interested in leasing or purchasing the mine may reach Vega in Los Angeles at AXminister 1-0442.—BY HERB MURRAY, JR.

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Powerful Metal Detector-

The hottest new hobby in years continues to attract devotees. A new metal detector by Underground Explorations is designed for the serious amateur, geologist, miner, or engineer. Metrotech model 330 is a rugged transistorized detector with a depth range below 20 feet, yet the instrument retains good sensitivity near the surface. The model 330 is for the detector user who wants something extra, a unit that can find the really big ones down deeper. It'll find a coffee can to a depth of 3 feet, an iron pot down as low as 5 feet, metal plates down to 8 feet, and ore deposits to 20 and 30 feet deep. Dimensions of this compact new instrument are 534x9x11½ inches, and it weighs just 8 pounds. Two low-cost batteries give an estimated operating life of up to 2000 hours. Incorporates a batterytest gauge, earphones and visual indicator, and large grip handle. Priced at \$165 from Metrotech, Underground Explorations, Box 793, Menlo Park, Calif.

Floating Fiberglass Seat-

Here's a novelty item that appears to have tremendous appeal for recreation. Molded of fiberglass, the ring-shaped seat fastens to a large truck innertube, which provides additional bouyancy and weight capacity. The unit is called the Tadpole. It can be used for fishing, skin diving, photography on the water, and just plain paddling about. Handy on swimming pool or Salton Sea, Tadpole will keep you afloat. Available in green, red, blue and beige. Price not announced. Write Tadpole, Eton, P. O. Box 1471, Memphis 1, Tennessee.

Portable Refrigerator—

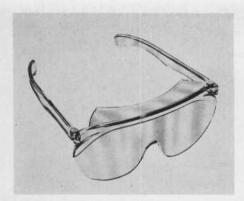
A compact 1.1 cubic capacity refrigerator for trailers, boats, and desert cabins requires no commercial electric power source. Operation of the Monitor is by 110-volt or 120-volt power, which means you can operate the small refrigerator off your car battery. A power cord comes with the unit for inserting in the cigarette lighter receptacle of the car. Dimensions are 14½-inches wide, 12-inches deep, and 13½-inches high. Total weight of the new unit is only 18 pounds. It's a small box, but for the special requirements of outdoorsmen, it fills a real need. Monitor can hold perishable foods for long periods without spoilage, and beverages stay cool on the hottest days. Monitor has other models available. Price not announced. From Monitor Equipment Corp., Riverdale-on-Hudson, New York 71, N.Y.





Deluxe Rock Saw-

The new Star combination cutter and grinder has all the accessories you'll need for professional rock polishing. Equipped with a 10-inch grinder and 10-inch slabtrim saw, fitted with a transparent plastic bubble shield. Entire slabbing vise and carriage lifts off to convert to trim-saw. All wheels, sanders and polishers a full 10-inch diameter. Four water control valves provide safe temperature control for sanding drums as well as grinding wheels. The saw provides a full 4x6-inch cut. Design of arbor permits cutting rocks right up to marks, with a 90-degree cut. An all-steel 3-door cabinet provides a solid base dust-free storage area. All accessories and items mentioned above are included in the one price on the Deluxe Star Combination unit: \$595. Many other models available from Star Engineering, P. O. Box 702, Moorhead, Minn.



Shatterproof Glasses—

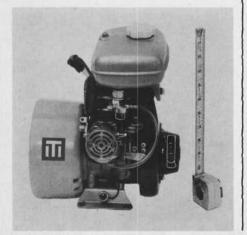
Want a protector shield for your eyes? The new "Outdoorsman Glasses" are made of tough transparent plastic to absorb the impact of blowing sand, flying spray, or shooting blow-back. They protect your eyes and your glasses. Should be a handy item for Salton Sea boating. Keeps salt crust spray on the plastic shield, where it does less damage. Colors available are deep green, amber, and clear. The price is a low \$2, from Outdoorsman, United Binocular Co., 9043 S. Western Avenue, Chicago 20, Illinois.

Compact Post-Hole Digger-

For weekend cabin owners and part-time ranchers, the new Portable Digger makes postholes in a jiffy, powered by a small gas engine. The entire unit including engine and carrying handle weighs only 10 pounds. Holes up to 5-inches in diameter, to a depth of 30-inches, can be handled. A rewind starter on the two-cycle engine allows quick starts. Overall dimensions of the potent little digger reveal a width of 16-inches at the handles, a thickness of 8-inches, a height of 10-inches. Many auger sizes will be available at extra cost. Tentative price of this item will be below \$150. It's gear-driven with a shaft-speed of 150 rpm. Available from: Ken Nign Enterprises, 8474 E. Garvey Blvd., So. San Gabriel, Calif.

Compact Light Plant-

Portable electricity in a compact package best describes the new 22-pound generating plant made by Titan Industries. They rate the little 12-inch-tall unit at an amazing 1000-watts of D.C. power. Direct Current power (D.C.) will operate lights, serieswound electric motors for most power tools, and many other electric devices. It's available in these voltage ranges: 12, 24, 28,



32, 36 and 120. A popular dual-voltage unit would be the 120-volt plus 12-volt combination generator. Retail price of basic generator starts at \$199.50, with a price of \$200.00 feather the health \$199.50, with a price of \$100.00 feather the health \$100.00 feather the start \$100 \$209.00 for the dual-voltage units. Power to spin the electric generator is derived from a 1.8-horsepower two-cycle gasoline engine. This type of powerplant should be suitable for camp lights, for weekend cabin or trailer owners, and for limited use on very small appliances. Contact: Titan Industries, Inc., 10889 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 936, Los Angeles 24, Calif.

Camper For Sedans—

Want a coach camper for your sedan? You can get one to fit your car from the Hudelson Sales Company. These new sleep-er units attach to the roof of the sedan over the front seat area, then extend back several feet to the space over the trunk. The trunk lid is removed, so that the trunk



space is enclosed and usable. idea. The coach weighs just 235 pounds, measures 11-feet long, 5-feet wide and is of riveted construction. They call it the "Topper". A full-size bed over the roof, and drawers, cabinets, and a stove inside the trunk area are part of the equipment. Priced at \$695, from Hudelson Sales Co., 302 East University, Champaign, Illinois.



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LETTERS FROM A DEATH VAI



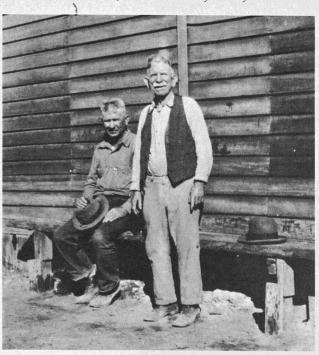
ED CROSS ABOUT THE TIME HE AND SHORTY HARRIS FOUND THE BULLFROG

From which we learn
the true story
of the discovery
and exploitation
of the famous
Bullfrog Mine

Material compiled by, and photographs from the collection of,

TOM G. MURRAY

author of "Death Valley Scotty"



SHORTY HARRIS (STANDING) AND JOE RYAN IN SHOSHONE

N AUGUST 9, 1904, Frank (Shorty) Harris, widely known as the "Death Valley Terrapin," and Ernest Lyon Cross made the first location in the Bullfrog district near the northern end of Death Valley and seventy-odd miles south of Goldfield, Nevada. The Bullfrog discovery gave birth to Rhyolite, now a ghost town.

Mention the Bullfrog Mine and most people think of Shorty Harris as the discoverer, which is only partly true. In 1946, Ed Cross told Lucien Lewis the true story of the finding of the Bullfrog: "One morning while digging and sampling, I picked up a specimen about

the size of a hen's egg. It gave me a little shiver of excitement and I could tell by the feel of it that it ran heavy with gold. It lay on the surface, in fact the glisten of it in the sunlight was what drew my attention to it. When I was sure my first impression was correct, I called Shorty. With a skeptical smile Shorty looked at it, hefted it, then began the usual tests. Watching him as he worked, I saw his cheeks change color. There was excitement in his eyes, and his fingers trembled. Suddenly he let out a warwhoop, jumped, and shouted, "Hell-fire, Eddie, we've struck the richest jackpot this side of the Klondike! Let's get busy as packrats and stake our claims!"

Ed Cross said they named it the Bullfrog because of the specimen's size and greenish color.

In 1958 I went to interview Ed Cross at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. D. Miller of Hemet. Unfortunately, Ed was too ill to talk, but he did manage a smile that I'll never forget. Out of this visit are these letters from Ed Cross to his wife who was in Lone Pine when he was following the golden trail.

Shorty Harris died in Lone Pine in 1934; Ed Cross passed away December 11, 1958, and is buried in the San Jacinto Valley Cemetery.

LLEY PROSPECTOR

The First Letter . . .

Goldfield, Nevada Aug. 17, 1904

My Dear wife and Sweetheart

I rec your Dear letter and it made me feel awful good to know you were all right. I had made arrangements to get \$20 and send you but am glad it is not necessary as I would have had to borrow it from a friend I met here and I hate to borrow. Silver is getting very low with me now but am all right as I can go to work running housing engine if I wanted to at 5.00 per day or could get a job setting up some machinery at the same wages. But I don't want it and I had a chance to go to work in an essay wages. But I don't want it and I had a chante to go to work in an essay office for 4.50 per day too, but I don't want any of it at all. You know I wrote I had located a claime. I called it the Bull Frog Mine, and after I wrote you we went back and done more prospecting and found it looked quite well and homed fine but never had any idea what a good Bull Frog it was until we came up here and essayed it and found how rich it was. We expected 200. per ton and it ran 665. I was very much surprised and when I saw the button come out I was so glad . . . I almost cried. Now Tilly don't get excited but we will make some money out of it sure perhaps not right away but I hope very soon. I showed the essay to a few friends of mine and mine buyers were after me at once. There is hundreds of mine buyers here from all over the world for this is to-day the greatest mining camp on earth thousands of dollars are coming out every day lots of rock 1/3 and even 3/4 gold is taken out every one is wild and excited. They are buying claims and paying thousands for them that haven't an ounce of ore on them. The country is located and staked for 15 miles square. There is 4 towns, each one as big as Independence in 3 miles square estimated about 5 or 6 thousand people here. So you can imagine there is more people to buy mines than there is mines. So I expect to do some biz pretty quick. The Bull Frog is about 60 miles from here whare the climate is about like Stone Cabin on L P Creek. And good water one mile above the mine that we have located too and plenty of good timber 8 or 9 miles. We can drive a wagon any whare around the mines a good wood road runs past about 1/4 mile from the mine. I say me and you are inquisitive when Frank went to Ballarat to meet some parties he was expecting. I didn't like to prospect whare I was so I went along with Shorty Harris Pearl knows him. She and I went up with a wagon when he was camped at the place whare I dug the hole between our house and whare the road forks Shorty was turning a flap jack and he amused Pearl very much. Well we prospected together and found the Bull Frog. I had intended to write you a lot more but find I will run short of time. As I have to meet some parties and talk over some business connected with the BULL FROG M. CO. in a short time. I think we will surely make something for I found an old copper penny with a hole in it on the B- Frog and it will bring us luck. The R. R. is washed out between Tonapah and Sodaville no mail for two days . . . I was a tough looker when I struck town hadn't shaved since L.P. I borrowed black hat with a high crown a pair of worn out hob nail shoes, overalls a little dirty. The only redeeming feature was a clean shirt. Tom Kean, Fletcher and McManus sold out 34 interest in their mine for \$75,000 a few days ago. We were in several water spouts and lots of rain while prospecting and coming here. Lot of rain and spouts all over the country never saw so much water in my life. Well Sweetheart I must quit for the present but there is lots of queer things we saw and heard of on our trip. So I will write again in a few days. Address Esmerelda, Co. instead of Nye. With a kiss and best love to you and all the folks I remain yours E. L. Cross

Three Days Later . . .

Goldfield, Nevada

Dear wife and Sweetheart

I rec your letters this morning and see you haven't rec my letter of the first day I got here the 16th I think. I also got the whole bunch from Balarat. There was a lot of them bless your heart, also several others which I have got to answer. So I can't write you much this time, but have sent you the Goldfield news. I wrote you all about the Bull Frog Mine so won't say much about it except I expect a party will go down to-morrow to see it but don't expect to do biz with them. I had a deal on we were to Bond for 1 year for 10,000 get 1,000 cash down and we retain 1/10 interest and be manager at 150 per month, but Shorty got drunk and couldn't come up to theon time but we will make some kind of a deal soon. My health is very good and am feeling all right now since I got a few beefsteaks down my neck and got the wrinkles out of my belly. We came past a ranch about 7 miles from our mine and we got a lot of carrots and nearly lived on a carrot diet for about a week. The ranch was Davis the place whare

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Harvey took the rhubarb, it is growning fine. Mrs Davis is an awful good woman. Just think she has been right there 5 years and she told me the first 2 years she never saw a white woman, and has only seen 3 since. She has two boys 10 and 19 and a nice little girl 11 and a baby 5 mo old. She doesn't care for herself but wants to come over to the valley somewhare so the youngsters can go to school. She has been out alone so long that she has forgoten about civilization poor woman. Mr. Davis seems an awful nice man too is a hard rustler but has had bad luck. They make everyone welcome that comes along and are just as nice as can be but as poor as church mice. If you see Albert Sienz tell him he can get on here all right 4.06 and eight hours, be sure and tell him. The stage is about ready for the mail so good bye with lots of love and a few kisses and hugs. Good bye Sweetheart E.L.C.

Love to all

Have you got any grapes to ship. I can sell all you have. Also apples by the ton write all about it

The Rush Is On . . .

Nye Co Nev

Amvium.—the new townsite in Bullfrog Mining District Aug 31, 1904

My Dearest wife

Note the heading the rush has begun about 20 people are in camp since day before yesterday. We all had a meeting last night and organized Bull Frog Mining District in honor of the Bullfrog Mine which is setting everyone crazy. There will be at least 50 more people here by tomorrow night and likely several hundred in 3 or 4 days. Some parties from Tonapah have staked a townsite today and say will survey and plot it at once. At least 50 locations have been made and 1000 is offered for the extensions of the B Frog and not a color of gold been found yet and all kinds of prices discussed by the people that have seen the B-Frog. As to what they think it is worth. None of them less than 50 thousand and from that to 250 thousand. Since writing the last letter telling you about the rich ore, we have open up another place that is so rich that the rock horns at least 1/10 gold. Sent some of it in for assay and expect it to go 30 to 75 thousand dollars per ton of course no need to tell you that there is not that kind in sight. The way it looks now is surely surprizing and it makes everyone just crazy and they strike out and go on the run to locate some claims. All the people that are here now are the fellows that just happened to be near here and the people that happened to be going along the road. Now we have a well traveled road to the mine I went out about 7 miles today and put up some sign boards so no one can make a mistake. The reason I expect people in tomorrow is because they will have had just time by then to get here since our teams got into Goldfield. Will send this letter tomorrow by a man that is going up. Well Tilly dear I expect a letter or two from you tomorrow. That is all the worry I have now is because I can't see you and know you are all right and I am sure you will for I know Mama will take better care of you than anyone else can. So I don't fear so very much for you. As far as our future is concerned am satisfied that the B. Frog will keep us well supplied with mon. It beats anything I ever saw in my life there is such rich ore. And such a big ledge and such a long ore Schute over 350 feet long. I have my lucky penny yet that I told you about finding. Of course I expect mining men down in a few days. If you know where Frank Howard is tell him to write at once to Goldfield or come at once tell him I have the greatest mine I ever heard of for him to handle but to be in a hurry. And come to Beattys ranch as I want to do biz or for him to bring his enginees on. Come by the way of Tonapah if the enginees come with him. I am going to write to him at Ballarat but am not sure if he is there or not.

Sept-1st 1904 Good morning Sweetheart—the candle went out last night so will finish this morning. Be sure and take good care of the pictures until I get to see them they must be grand all right. The weather here is quite pleasant—but rainy nearly every day. Well Sweetheart take good care of yourself and write me all the news. And tell me if you get the copy of the Gold Field News or not. Good bye with love to you and all the folks.

E. L. C.

High Hopes . . .

Bullfrog Mine September 7, 1904

Dear Wife

As there has been no mail into Gold F- I have rec no letters from you although I have written several to you telling you of the wonderful Bull Frog. It is more wonderful every day. Today we found silver ore on the lead that was 1/2 silver we have bonded it for ten days for 100 thousand to be paid in ten days the balance to be paid in the course of one year. 5 days of the bond are up and in 5 more days we will know. I don't expect to make it but there are several after it red hot and I don't think it will be

"GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNER"

long till we make a So if you got a telegram from Gold Field any time don't be frightened but don't expect too much and you won't be dissapointed if you have written Frank write him not to come as it is not what his people want but the Gold Field people are crazy. They have been pouring into camp here by the doz. but no one has found a thing yet but they are all crazy about the B.F.

Well Dear I am very anxious to hear from you and to know that you are all right but expect to see you before very long. Am very busy every day from daylight till dark—will write you a longer letter next time but had an unexpected chance so thought would drop you a line to cheer you up for a bit as I know how anxious the dear little girl is to know what is going on. Now be sure and write me all about yourself as I think about you all the time and wonder how you are . . . good bye Sweetheart with lots of love and kisses to you and the folks I would send you some pieces of the rich ore but have not got any stamps. E. L. Cross

Addressed to — Mrs. E. L. Cross Lone Pine Inyo Co. Cal.

Postscript . . .

Historians cannot agree on exactly what happened after Cross and Harris decided to cash-in on the Bullfrog because the partners presented divergent accounts of what took place. Only one thing is certain: Cross fared better than Harris. Their individual statements follow:

SHORTY HARRIS' ACCOUNT

In the spring of 1930, Harris told his story to Philip Johnston: "One night when I was pretty well lit up, a man by the name of Bryan took me to his room and put me to bed. The next morning, when I woke up, I had a bad headache and wanted more liquor. Bryant had left several bottles of whiskey on a chair beside the bed, and locked the door. I helped myself and went back to sleep. That was the start of the longest jag I ever went on; it lasted six days.

"When I came to, Bryan showed me a bill of sale for the Bullfrog, and the price was only \$25,000! I got plenty sore, but it didn't do any good. There was my signature on the paper, and beside it the signatures of seven witnesses and the notary's seal. And I felt a lot worse when I found

BULLFROG BECAME RHYOLITE AND RHYOLITE DIED

out that Ed had been paid \$125,000 for his half, and had lit right out for Lone Pine . . .

"As soon as I got the money, I went out for a good time. All the girls ate regularly while old Shorty had the dough. As long as my stake lasted I could move and keep the band playing. And friends—I never knew I had so many! I had seven or eight thousand (dollars) left when Dave Driscol talked to me. He said, 'Shorty, if you don't cut this out, you'll be broke in a damn short time.' I saw that he was right, and jumped on the water wagon then and there—and I haven't fallen off since."

ED CROSS' ACCOUNT

In 1946, Lucien Lewis received this statement from Cross: "Shorty and I staked out two claims, then rushed to Goldfield to have them recorded. My main anxiety was to keep Shorty sober until we could get the claims recorded for I knew there would be a stampede for the hills as soon as word of a strike should get out. I made it all right, but that didn't save Shorty. With title to that mining claim recorded, he fell an easy prey to a bunch of tinhorn gamblers who inveigled him into a poker game. When the game was over, those gamblers had Shorty's half interest in the Bullfrog and he had a mule and \$500. Think of it! The Bullfrog was listed on the stock exchange shortly after that for \$200,000."

"And your half interest?" Lewis asked.

"Well, I organized a stock company and sold shares. At that time \$20 gold pieces were slipping through my fingers like sand through a sieve. A little later, when a San Francisco broker made us a cash offer, we let the Bullfrog loose. And believe me, he bellowed Gold! Gold! Gold! for a long time after that!" "Specialists in Southwestern Presswork"

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.. They Study The SUMMER DESERT

Story By
JIM EATON

Photos By STAN GILBERT T WAS EARLY morning and the sun was already hot, giving promise of another scorching summer day in the rolling California sand dunes just across the border from Yuma

In a deep depression between lofty dunes, four men plodded searchingly through the ankle-deep sand.

Suddenly they broke into a triumphant dash as they spied the object of their tiring, hot search: not longburied treasure, not thirst-quenching water, but a fringe-footed sand lizard!

The men were part of a group of 40 selected college biology teachers who each summer spend six weeks studying plants and animals during a Summer Institute in Desert Biology at Arizona State University at Tempe.

The University has received a \$39,900 grant from the National Sci-



ence Foundation to support the 1963 institute, to be held from June 24 to Aug. 3. The highest level biological institute supported by the NSF, the fifth-annual desert course will be directed by Dr. Robert L. Burgess, assistant professor of botany at ASU.

Selected to study at the institute will be college instructors from throughout the United States who have a strong background in biology to adequately prepare them for this intensive specialization.

Emphasis is on plants and animals of the Southwestern deserts, Specimens from other desert areas are used for comparative purposes to illustrate morphological, physiological, and behavioral adaptations to desert environments,

The high degree of professionalism is reflected in the institute lecturers who this summer will include: Dr. Lyman Benson, Pomona College, a nationally-known plant taxonomist, authority on desert plants, and author of many scientific papers and three books, two of which are very important to the institute: The Cactiof Arizona, and Trees and Shrubs of the Southwestern Deserts.

Dr. William Dawson, University of Michigan, animal physiologist known for his work on heat transfer and water balance in birds and mammals, presently a visiting professor of zoology at the University of Western Australia.

Dr. Ned Johnson, ornithologist, Curator of Birds at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr. David M. Gates, atmospheric physicist with the National Bureau of Standards at Denver.

Dr. Ira Wiggins, Curator of the

Dudley Herbarium of Stanford University, and the outstanding living authority on the Sonoran Desert. He is about to publish a definitive book, Flora of the Sonoran Desert.

Dr. Robert Stebbins, University of California, animal physiologist nationally known for his work in herpetology and adaptations of desert species.

Dr. Reynold J. Ruppe, ASU, professor of anthropology and also known for his studies of Southwestern Indians.

Associate director of the institute is Dr. A. E. Dammann, associate professor of zoology at ASU. Lecture coordinator and field trip leader is Dr. James McCleary, professor of botany, Orange State College, Fullerton.

Detailed information is presented the biologist-students (some of whom have never seen a desert) in lectures,





INSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR DR. JAMES McCLEARY, PROFESSOR OF BOTANY AT ORANGE STATE COLLEGE, DESCRIBES DESERT VEGETATION FOR NOTE-TAKING BIOLOGISTS



NOT EVEN THE SMALLEST DESERT CREATURE IS OVERLOOKED BY STUDENTS. "TINY" MITE REPOSING AT PENCIL POINT FOR SIZE COMPARISON IS LARGEST FOUND IN NORTH AMERICA.





FRINGE-FOOTED SAND LIZARD, FOUND IN DUNES, IS PERFECT EXAMPLE OF ADAPTATION. PHOTO AT RIGHT SHOWS PATTERN LEFT BY LIZARD.

laboratories, group discussions, personal conferences, and field trips.

"Before attending the institute, my whole idea of deserts was gained from cowboy movies," a Connecticut teacher said.

But instead of a relatively lifeless land of deadly snakes and bleached bones, the biologist discovers "a whole new world" of hardy vegetation ranging from dainty pinwheel flowers to majestic saguaro cactus and Joshua trees.

Avid collectors and photographers who reap big benefits both in personal experience and in improved teaching techniques, the biologists have a wide variety of plant and animal life at their disposal. However, the general low densities of desert organisms prevent large-scale collecting without resulting damage to the natural communities.

Their study area ranges from the Desert Botanical Gardens in Tempe to Organ Pipe National Park near Tucson to California sand dunes. And their search for knowledge continues day and night.

"On an overnight collecting trip, one guy brought in a kangaroo rat," said a biologist, explaining his colleague's dedicated pursuit of desert denizens.

"Where'd he get it?" I asked.

"He ran it down," he said. "Can you picture that? Running around the desert in the middle of the night, waving a flashlight and bumping into cactus?"

A couple of other biologists had their own ideas of how to catch lizards. They simply dazed them with rubber suction-cup darts fired from a spring-loaded pistol.

This was a variation of a previous trip when an instructor was particularly adept at kayoing specimens with a heavy rubber band launched from his thumb.

The institute carefully blends class work with field trips, school with home life (most of the group bring their families who reside on campus), and business with pleasure.

"This is the first summer I've had free in 20 years," exclaimed one delighted instructor from Troy, N.Y. "I'm having a heck of a good time."

Another biologist explained: "It's all serious study, but it is not without a light side. Like the fellow who spied a colorful cactus.

"'I'd like to take a picture of that,' he said wistfully, 'but I have a horned lizard in my camera case.'"

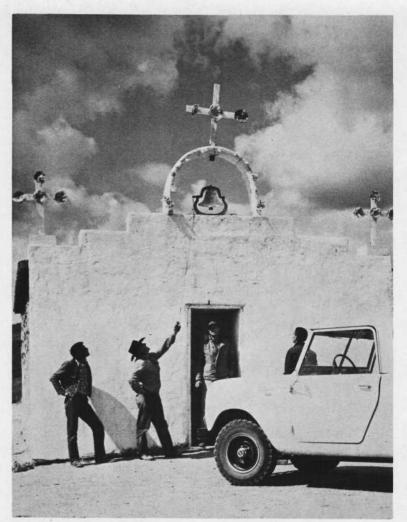




... A Day With The PAPAGOS

By CLOYD SORENSEN, JR.





CHURCH BUILDING IS THE ONLY PERMANENT STRUCTURE IN THE DESERT VILLAGE OF CHIULKAM ("WHITE MUD"). PAPAGOS TAKE-UP RESIDENCE IN CHIULKAM WHEN THE RAINS FILL THE LOCAL RESERVOIRS—WHICH DOESN'T HAPPEN OFTEN.



THE AUTHOR'S PAPAGO INTERPRETER, GEORGE PUFFER, AT RIGHT, POSES WITH A RESIDENT OF KAKA. THE PAPAGO OLLAS AT THEIR FEET ARE UNUSUALLY LARGE. THE SMALLER OLLA IS PAINTED WITH RED DESIGNS—ANOTHER RARITY. THE MEN ARE STANDING BEFORE A HOUSE MADE OF SAGUARO RIBS AND MUD.



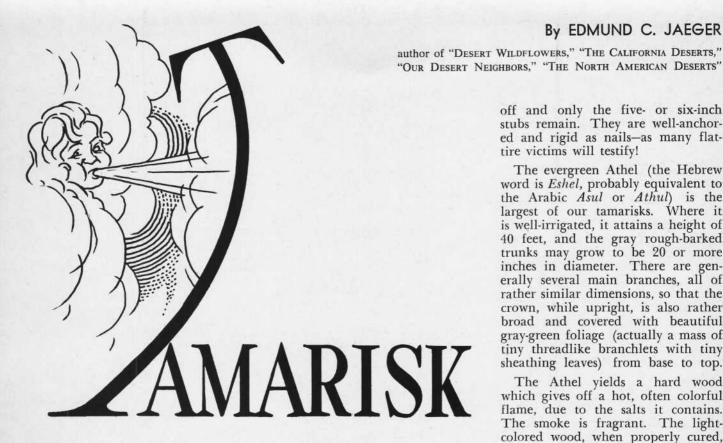
CHRISTY SORENSEN EXAMINES A NEWLY-MADE PAPAGO BASKET AT THE VILLAGE OF KAKA. THE BASKETS ARE WOVEN FROM SPLIT OCOTILLO BRANCHES. IT TOOK MANY MINUTES OF CONVERSATION—PLUS THE PURCHASE OF FOUR OF THESE BASKETS—TO INDUCE THE TWO PAPAGO WOMEN TO POSE FOR THIS PHOTOGRAPH.

For travelers between Ajo or Gila Bend and Tucson, on either highway 84 or 86, there are many interesting and educational side-trips into the numerous Papago Indian villages. Highway signs show the way to most of these out-of-the-way places, bearing such exotic names as Hickiwan, Hotason Vo, Emika, Hoa Murk, Gu Vo, Kaka, Tatria Toak and Sikort Chuapo

Most of the villages can be reached on usually passable roads in the comfort of your family car. Some require four-wheeldrive vehicles.

The villages are there for all to see—but when strangers approach, the shy Papagos usually retreat into their mud-and-brush houses. An Indian guide and interpreter is practically indispensable if you want conversation and trade with the Indians. The presence of these trusted persons warm the Papagos into smiles and interesting conversation—through the interpreter, of course. Many of the Papagos will not speak English. Inquire for the guide and interpreter services at the trading posts in Ajo or Gila Bend.

The Papagos ("Desert People") are usually friendly. Many still make baskets and ollas, and trade is possible. One word of caution: don't take pictures without first asking permission—and some form of compensation is usually expected.



F ALL trees planted for shade, ornament or windbreaks on the desert, the tamarisk is the most common-but, do not confuse it with the northern conifer called tamarack. The tamarisk is a desert tree-much admired for its graceful gray-green plumose branches, and valued for its tolerance of salt-laden soils, heat, dry winds, and ability to withstand drouth. Once well established, it is almost impossible to discourage this tree's determined effort to live. I have seen tamarisks persisting to grow about long-abandoned desert ranches, nurtured only by scant and uncertain rainstorms.

The 75 tamarisk varieties are native to the great arid belt skirting the Mediterranean and extending eastward into middle Asia. Some are deciduous, others evergreen. About a dozen species are in cultivation in the United States-imported from North Africa less than a half-century ago. Most are planted for ornament or as windbreaks. The various species, very similar in general appearance, are difficult to tell apart except on the basis of minute technical characters. On some trees, the deep pink flowers appear in summer only after the tiny new leaves issue forth; in others the pink or white flowers show up in spring, before or with the new leaves.

Our two most common desert tamarisks are the small French tamarisk (Tamarix gallica) and the larger Athel (Tamarix aphylla).

The former loses its leaves in winter, blooms earlier, and seems to do well even in areas occasionally visited by severe frosts. It is a heavy seeder. The French tamarisk's seeds are very small, and each has a tuft of hair at one end to aid in wind dispersal. Once in the ground they readily sprout when moisture penetrates to them; especially well do they germinate if the weather is warm. Seed dispersal in this species is so wide that there is scarcely a seep, spring, stream or canal where this hardy shrub has not sprung-up. Even the remotest hide-out waterholefrom the desolate side-canyons of Death Valley to the stony mountains of Baja California—has its little colony of French tamarisk.

Along river and stream banks, on water-covered playas, and in moist soils along canal banks, the young plants, thickly-set and rapidly growing, quickly form impenetrably dense thickets. In many places (especially along canal borders) this woody plant is only a shrubby weed. But even here, it serves usefully as a soil binder.

On the eastern-edge of Baja California's Laguna Salada, where runoff water from the Colorado River forms temporary inundations, the young plants spring up in unbelievable numbers, but die before the long summer is over. Even so, some plants grow to a height of six feet. After several years, the upper stems break off and only the five- or six-inch stubs remain. They are well-anchored and rigid as nails-as many flattire victims will testify!

The evergreen Athel (the Hebrew word is Eshel, probably equivalent to the Arabic Asul or Athul) is the largest of our tamarisks. Where it is well-irrigated, it attains a height of 40 feet, and the gray rough-barked trunks may grow to be 20 or more inches in diameter. There are generally several main branches, all of rather similar dimensions, so that the crown, while upright, is also rather broad and covered with beautiful gray-green foliage (actually a mass of tiny threadlike branchlets with tiny sheathing leaves) from base to top.

The Athel yields a hard wood which gives off a hot, often colorful flame, due to the salts it contains. The smoke is fragrant. The lightcolored wood, when properly cured, takes a high polish exhibiting a beautiful grain; hence it may be used in the making of furniture.

This tamarisk is seldom propagated by seed, but rather by means of cuttings. These, cut from hard wood of the previous season's growth, planted in loose soil or sand, and wellwatered, soon begin to sprout small leafy branches and in a remarkably short time develop strong roots. Large cuttings (up to 3-4 inches in diameter and 12-15 inches long) are best to use since they are less subject to drying-out. Only the top six inches should project above the soil.

The tamarisk's roots are shallow feeders reaching out in every direction, sometimes for great distances, to get moisture. The small terminal root branches will creep into the joints of pipelines and drains, causing stoppage. For these reasons the trees are considered objectionable in some farm and orchard districts. Some ranchers correct this by digging trenches close to the tree to cut the roots that strike outward to rob moisture from orchard trees.

The Athel makes a most excellent windbreak. The Southern Pacific Railroad is making extensive use of it in sandy areas alongside its tracks near Thousand Palms. The trees are rapidly growing into a beautiful tall hedge, responding well to the irrigation supplied to them by means of a pipeline. It is interesting to observe



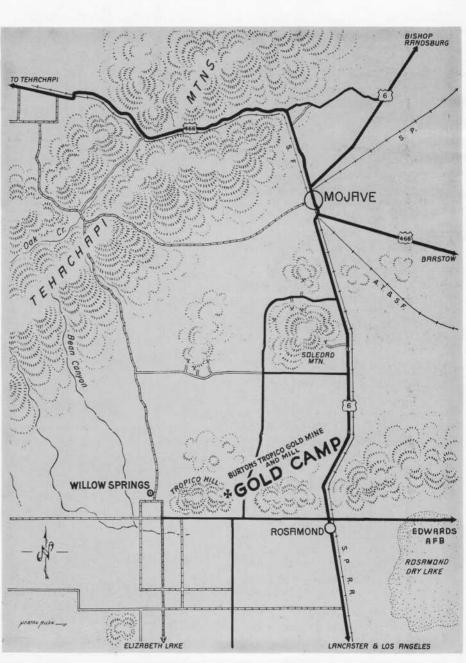
GOLD CAMP ON THE MOJAVE

By LADY RAE EASTLAND

Felt Pen Sketches By JOHN W. BURGESS

IN THE "ORDINARY" ghost town there is little left but boards and broken bits, and no one to remember a few randomly carved dates. The past is a vague picture drawn with

GOLDCAMP IS NOT a run-of-themill ghost town. It is, rather, a town teeming with "ghosts" dedicated to seeing that everyone remembers the gold miners and their ways. It is a



ABOUT THE ARTIST: John Burgess, documentary artist who lives at Lancaster on California's Mojave Desert, is dedicated to the urgency of recording the story of yesterday's West before it vanishes completely. This artistic documentation, he feels, will fill a niche for posterity in the historical records of the land, as well as in the art world. According to Burgess, the documentary approach to art is "more important" than the contribution being made by the romantic or colorist type artist. Burgess, a transplanted New Englander, came to Muroc (now Edwards) 17 years ago. From the first day, he reports, he was "enthralled by the desert's color, light, distances and aura of vanishing past."

composite of all old desert mining camptowns, recreated by Glen and Dorene Settle, co-owners of Burtons Tropico Gold Mine and Gold Extraction Mill five miles west of Rosamond.

THE MINE, of course, is not in operation. Hardly any gold mines have worked since the war. The Settles, however, are making a rare and concerted effort to check gold mining lore in its slow slide into oblivion. For one thing, Burtons Tropico is probably the only complete gold mine and mill open to the public in the state. Most mine owners long ago abandoned their mines and dismantled the equipment. The Settles had to shut-down operations, but they have kept Burtons Tropico as it was-all equipment intact, and tons of \$30 and \$40 ore still in view along the veins.

AS THE DAYS and years passed, however, Glen and Dorene realized that this was not enough; that the shards and tools of the men who had followed this golden dream were vanishing like weary yesterdays. For the past 15 years they have searched for mining relics in old ghost towns, not only throughout California, but throughout the West and Alaska. Their interest overflowed into saving the historical buildings and memorabilia of Antelope Valley and Southern California. They have moved old pioneer homes, schoolhouses, and abandoned mine buildings to Goldcamp.

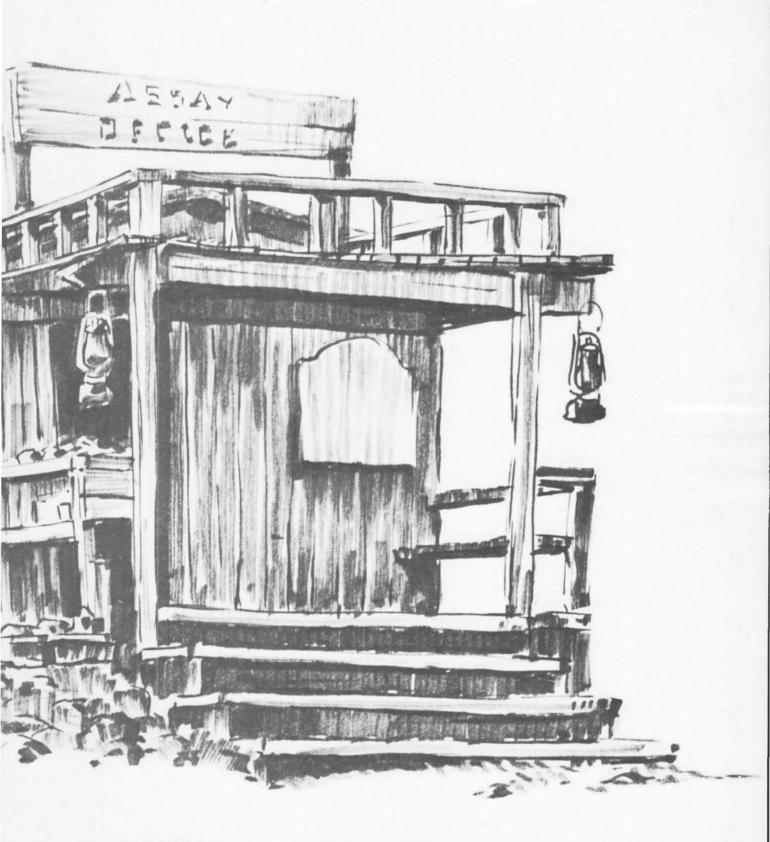
THEY HAVE CLUSTERED their collection into a replica of an old mining camp at the foot of Burtons Tropico. It is complete with a believable



Assay Office

Assay Office, Melting Room, Livery Stable, Miners Hall, Blacksmith Shop, General Store, Post Office, Rooming House, and Superintendent's House . . . and the electric hope of striking gold.

FOR THIS ENDEAVOR, and for organizing the Kern-Antelope Historical Society in 1959, the California State Assembly recently passed a resolution citing Glen Settle. This honor followed an Award of Merit from Los



Angeles County for the same efforts, and Kern County preceded them both by two years in recognizing his contribution to the preservation of the mementoes of early Antelope Valley history.

GOLDCAMP IS MORE than a make-believe mining town. It is 100 Years of Gold on parade. It is Southern California history, Antelope Valley history, and Burton and Settle history—all placed on view with a

living touch and a devotion to heritage. The treasures garnered here give history an immediacy.

WHAT TOASTS were drunk from this old glass? What guest dined on



this old plate? What living woman dressed in these satins? Who read this Willow Springs newspaper? Who bought this pick when it was shiny new?

IN FANTASY one feels oil lamplight on rustic furniture sturdy and comfortable with honest grace . . . hears music from the first organ brought into Arizona territory, water splashing in a tub where Teddy Roosevelt once bathed, the draw of thread through a sampler finished December 18, 1798, by an 11-yearold girl. One rubs a hand over the plush of an old family album and looks at coffee grinders and smokeblackened pots from old kitchens . . . or at mementoes embalmed in a glass case: guns, hats rusted knife, spur, lights, gold scales, Indian artifacts, miner's boots, ores, gem stone, agate, flint, black obsidian.

SCATTERED OVER THE camp and seemingly left at work's end are

fire equipment, pock-marked granite blocks where miners held drilling contests, a dry washer, a burro-driven hoist, spiral-wound wooden pipe lines, wagons, buggies, a 1902 Oldsmobile, narrow gauge railroad cars.

THE SETTLES moved Miners Hall, the Post Office, and the Blacksmith Shop to Goldcamp from nearby Soledad Mountain Gold Mining District.

THE BLACKSMITH SHOP originally took form shake by shake, pieced out with strips of flattened corrugated tin, and lined with unfolded dynamite boxes. Miners Hall is replete with pot-bellied stove. The walls are hung with John Burgess sketches of historic buildings.

TOWARD THE BACK of the hall, just past a roll-top desk, and through swinging doors, is a bar which the Settles brought to Goldcamp from the first hotel built in Tehachapi. Over its mirror are nudes which once decorated an old saloon in Nevada City.

OUTSIDE HANGS A very current sign: "Kern-Antelope Historical Society—Miners Hall—Second Tuesday—8 p.m." The Hall is the meeting place for a group which has grown to 125 members today.

GLEN AND DORENE SETTLE are both spawn of men whom a new country chooses from the many that come and go seeking gold. Glen's grandfather joined the Union Forces in California and made the Long March from Santa Monica to Texas. Glen was born in one of the old railroad buildings that was moved to Goldcamp from Palmdale where his father used to be a railroad man. Dorene Burton Settle has lived in Goldcamp all her life. The "Burton Home" is still part of the Antelope Valley landscape. Dorene's parents owned the Tropico after Ezra Hamilton first discovered gold there while digging in the small peak's red earth for clay to make his pottery.

BURTONS TROPICO produced millions of dollars in gold and silver over a 60-year period. The Burton Brothers had the largest Gold Ore Customs Mill in Southern California, serving an area of 500 miles or more at one time, and had more than 400 individual shippers. Precipitates of millions of dollars of gold were melted here and poured into bars for shipment to the mint in San Francisco.

GOLDCAMP IS AN EASY place to spend several hours. There are rest rooms and plenty of free parking. For families or groups who want to make a day of it, there are picnic tables in the yard. In the midst of buildings from the past, there are present-day functional spots like the Snack Shack with sandwiches, coffee, soft drinks, candy, and ice cream for those who do not bring picnic baskets; the General Store sells souvenirs of desert glass, mining equipment, ore specimens, maps, gold ore to pan; at the Rock Shop the rockhound may buy an unusual addition for his collection.

THE AVAILABLE TOURS vary with the Winter Season (October 1 to June 1), the Summer Season (June 1 - October 1), and with the days of the week. (The place is closed Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the year.) Cost for the whole show, including the hour-long mine tour, is \$1 for adults and 60c for children. If you prefer only to wander through Goldcamp, prices are reduced. In the summertime, the Settles bow to the desert weather and concentrate the tours on the cool depths of the mine. In any season, bring along a jacket and wear comfortable shoes.///



Lee's Fort. Built with thick stone walls, high small windows and loopholes, this outpost provided a strong defense against attack. Photo was taken in 1908.

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TODAY

More Than A
Century Ago By
Brigham Young
Is Facing A
"Lotus-Eating"
Crisis . . .

By THOMAS F. O'DEA

HE Visitor to Utah, approaching from the east, comes upon the western slope of the Wasatch Range to find the Valley of the Great Salt Lake spread out before him. It is an exhilarating sight, especially for those who see it for the first time. In the background is the Lake itself, huge, reflecting the sunlight from its saline water, surrounded by mountains. To its left the Oquirrh Range rises from the Valley floor to make the west rim of the great saucer. In the foreground, just below the Wasatch front, is the city, with its wide squared streets, its Temple spires, its capitol building, and its small cluster of tall buildings constituting the business district. It is a small metropolitan area of about 300,000 persons, but it presents a

About the Author -

Thomas F. O'Dea is professor of sociology at the University of Utah at Salt Lake City. He is the author of two books, "The Mormons" (Univ. of Chicago Press, 1957) and "American Catholic Dilemma" (Sheed-Ward Press, 1958). Born in Massachusetts in 1915, O'Dea attended local grammar and high schools, and then went on to Harvard where he received A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees.

genuinely metropolitan appearance—the largest concentration of human beings between the Continental Divide and the California Coast—set in the midst of so much natural magnificence.

THE VISITOR IS AWARE that he is looking at something different, and he is not wrong. Here is the capital city of a state in which about three percent of the land is arable, but whose settlement and development was largely dependent upon agriculture. Here is a land where there is never enough water, but where water is more in evidence than almost anywhere else in the country, with drinking fountains on the city streets, and as likely as not, water flowing along the city gutters. By the time the visitor has toured Temple Square, listened to guides' explanations and the marvelous acoustics of the Mormon Tabernacle, visited the LDS Museum and perhaps heard part of a midday organ recital on the Tabernacle organ, he has caught some of the specific flavor of Utah's uniqueness.

IF HE HAS TRIED to buy a drink to slake his thirst, made greater by the high dry air of the valley sum-

mer, he has found that liquor may be bought only at a state liquor store, and there only with a permit which costs him a dollar. When the attendant at the first gas station he drives into attempts to sell him new tires or battery, commenting sagely upon the weakness of his present equipment and his great distance from home, the visitor is aware that he is among a people to whom business is a serious affair, that the importance and ubiquitious visibility of religion has not banished the pursuit of worldy gain.

OUR VISITOR IS NOW in Zion! A little over a century earlier, other men from the East stood on the bench of the Wasatch and looking out at the barren and empty valley before them, heard Brigham Young declare that this was the right place for Mormon settlement. In the years and decades that followed, immigrants came by the thousands, by wagon, on foot pushing handcarts before them, and later by train, to build a Mormon community based upon Mormon religious values in this valley and in others like it throughout Utah. Today Utah's 900,000 population is 72 percent Mormon. The Mormons have held their own in Utah's population growth and still constitute an impressive majority.

YET GREAT CHANGES are taking place within the state, two of them especially important. The majority of the population no longer make their living from agriculture. The development of industry, greatly stimulated by missile manufacture, is urbanizing the state. Somewhere around half of the employers in the state who employ 500 or more workers are engaged in defense work. Nearly a quarter of those in non-farm employment work for some governmental agency. Secondly, industry is bringing in outsiders, many of them non-Mormon, a most significant development, although in 1960 Salt Lake County was still 60 percent Mormon and Weber County 67 percent, despite Salt Lake City and Ogden with large non-Mormon groups.

YET THE QUESTION REMAINS: How Mormon is Utah? Is Utah still Zion? Mormonism is central to the history and contemporary make-up of Utah, and members of the LDS Church still hold the majority of influential positions in government, business and education. Yet, having noted this striking fact, one must immediately add that Latter-Day Saints are far from a homogeneous group in several important respects and that the Mormon Church, despite the strength of its traditions and its organizational cohesiveness, is anything but a political or social—or even religious—monolith.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST of Latter-day Saints is still and will for a long time remain an institution of central importance in Utah society. It is certainly a creator and conservor of values, a maker of opinion and a strong influence in political and social life. Generally, it tends to be conservative in political and economic matters. Its leadership on all levels is predominantly Republican if for no other reason than because it is recruited largely from business and professional classes. Yet, Utah voted Democratic in the thirties and Republican in the fifties, tending to go along with the rest of the nation. The Church does not dominate politics on a state level, nor the state contribution to national affairs. Moreover, the general authorities of the Church, its supreme decision-making body, contain not only an important former Republican cabinet member, but also at least two important Democrats, one of whom is a man of considerable economic importance in the

NOR IS THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP undifferentiated in significant respects. Among the descendants of those who came to Utah to build God's kingdom in the wilderness are wealthy socialites, some of whom now serve and drink cocktails, and for whom the swimming pool adjacent to the modern home (not the row of tall poplar trees edging the north pasture) has become the symbol of good Utah living. Modern Western living in the best California style has come to Utah and has come to stay.

YET STAUNCH RURAL MORMONISM, both in the country and imported into city life, with its literal belief and strict observance, remains important and characteristic of many. Moreover, there are some 20,000 (some informed observers suggest 30,000) men, women and children involved in the practice of plural marriage in the state. These dissidents are of course largely excommunicated from the Church and sometimes prosecuted by the state.

UTAH HAS THREE UNIVERSITIES, two state and one Church. At the state institutions academic freedom is a reality and the Church university has felt the influence of dissenting opinion. On all levels of life, from the expression of religious beliefs, through politics, education, and in the general taste of its people, Mormonism's old homogeneity is fast giving way to the heterogeneity which city life and the importation of city ways into the countryside is bringing about. Moreover, entertainment and advertising, television and the motion pictures, support the basic trend. The old and the new, and odd combinations of the two, exist side by side in a changing Utah.

HOWEVER, IT MUST BE RECALLED that the Mormon Church is bigger than Utah. It is larger in numbers and it extends far beyond the confines of the mountain West. Its present membership is over 1,700,000, with a large percentage in California and

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other Western states, but also with sizable groups in the Midwest and in cities like Chicago and New York. It is symbolic of the condition of Mormonism today that a prominent member of the LDS Church is a much talked of possibility for the next Republican presidential nomination, and that Mr. Romney is governor of Michigan, not Utah.

THE MORMON CHURCH IS often described as wealthy, and quite correctly so, but it is wealthy in terms of the moderate standards of affluence of the Intermountain region. It has invested wisely over a large range of interests: real estate, banking, ranching, railroads, sugar-refining, coal mining, life insurance, and other enterprises. Yet from 1838 to the present time its chief source of revenue, apart from prudent investment, has been tithing, the literal 10 percent contribution from all staunch members.

MORMON RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, like those of the New England Puritans from which they derive, emphasize the importance of work and action. Organized activity is central to Church life and consumes a great proportion of the time of the members. In 1960, there were approximately 900,000 unpaid positions held by the church membership. Most Church offices are held by part-time non-professionals and lay-participation is the basis of the whole structure. The men are members of a complex priesthood organization in which they begin to take part at the age of 12. Each of its six ranks has a local organization in every Church ward. There is also the Relief Society which activates about half of the women of the Church, and other organizations for young people



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and for children. There is Scouting under Church hegemony. Moreover, the Mormons believe in Temple Rites for the dead, performed in proxy by the living, and a Church genealogical society carries on this activity and engages many older people in its program. During the Depression years the Church revived its old cooperative tradition and instituted the Church

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Welfare Plan, which continues today, operating welfare farms and aiding the needy through a vast system of ecclesiastical semi-socialism embraced and practiced by economic conservatives.

IS THE CHURCH GROWING or is it declining? Membership continues to increase. The harvest of missionary effort is not unimpressive. In 1960, the 63 Church missions in various parts of the United States and in foreign lands reported 39,000 new members converted, the largest total up to that time in Church history. Of these, nearly 11,000 were made in Europe, 4500 in the British Isles, 1000 in France. The Mormon mission in Samoa baptized 2693 converts that year, while the Central American Mission baptized 1200. This organized missionary work is conducted largely by young men and some young women who spend between 24 and 30 months in the field at their own expense with some help from local church groups and mission organizations. In 1960 there were 8000 young people in the field.

THE NUMBER OF THOSE participating in mission work increases yearly, and the Church now seems to be making an even greater emphasis on missionary activity, although proselytizing has long been a primary Church activity. Local Church organizations also carry on their own missionary programs, and in 1960 these groups made some 10,000 converts, making the total number of new members for that year close to 50,000. There were 300,000 Church members living in missionary areas at that time.

BUT WHAT ABOUT LOSSES? Losses are less palpable, less pleasant to report, and less observable than conversions. Mormons are held together not simply by ties of common assent in religious matters, by the belief in the divine mission of the prophet-founder Joseph Smith and the Church he established, but also by a common tradition of suffering and achievement. One is reminded of the Mormon bishop who was told by a tourist that God and hard-working Mormons had wrought wonders in the transformation of Utah. He is supposed to have replied: "You should have seen it when God had it alone!" The successful settlement of Utah represents much suffering and much heroism.

TO DEVOUT MORMONS, Utah is Isaiah's Zion in the Mountaintops, where their efforts and God's blessings have made the desert blossom as the rose. To the lukewarm, to those who no longer believe literally or who are not sure whether they believe or not, the fact of Utah's heroic history is not without meaning, and it can evoke a loyalty and allegiance deeper than literal agreement about specific religious tenets. Mormonism stresses family loyalty, the derivative of an earlier patriarchalism which involved polygamy. The story of the settlement of Utah, the story of the Church and the family story are a single narrative for many Utahns.

SUCH A CONDITION tends to keep open apostasy to a minimum. Some are unhappy about a religious literalness in beliefs they find untenable for modern educated men. Some give up the vaunted abstinence from liquor and tobacco and from coffee and become "Jack Mormons." All perhaps are becoming slowly secularized, subtly influenced by non-Mormon ideas and tastes and by the current affluence. But how many are they? No one can answer.

THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE, despite its present numerical growth, its monumental construction of an entire city block of new Church buildings, its tremendous expansion of the Brigham Young University at Provo, and its continued vitality as seen in the widespread active participation of its members; that the LDS Church is in a state of crisis. It is a strange crisis, one not easily noticed; a lotus-eating crisis, a sleeping crisis, an unrecognized crisis of prosperity and acceptance.

MORMONISM HAS MET all its crises of adversity—successfully and heroically. It has brought civilization to the Western wilderness and it has grown up with its own creation. But can it survive its own success? Can it meet the challenge of modern education, modern critical thought, the tempting lure of worldly values and the indulgent luxuries that modern urban

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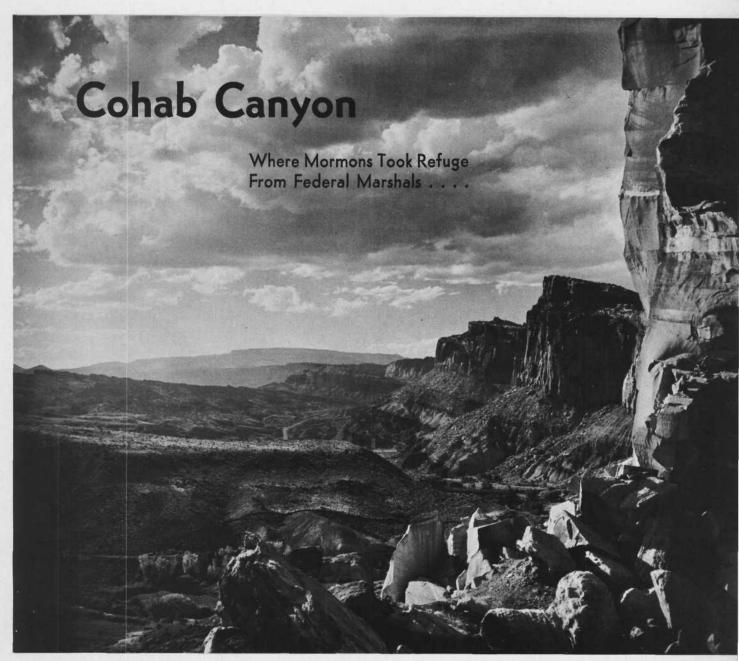
UTAH IS ENJOYING unprecedented prosperity, and men understandably want to live well. What some religious preachers may see as the corrupting influence of the world's slow stain, the ordinary man might well see as the opportunity to make life enjoyable. Prosperity, the rise of middle-class tastes, the pursuit of pleasure—these threaten to transform the tougher fiber of the older Mormonism. Perhaps the transformation has gone farther than many surmise.

MOREOVER, UTAH HAS well over half of its college age youth in college. Higher education, even under Church auspices, is the transmission belt by which modern critical thought is brought to confront traditional religious beliefs. But Mormonism, with its literal belief in the Book of Mormon and other LDS scriptures, lacks the sophisticated theology to meet

such a challenge-one already of real importance in the life of young Utahns.

IN SHORT, ZION HAS BEEN reincorporated back into the gentile Babylon from which its founders spiritually seceded. Today it is a well-to-do, attractive, fun-loving as well as a serious, critical and skeptical Babylon. Morevoer, the modernization of Utah has brought not only the blessings but also the evils that modernization brings everywhere. Divorce, juvenile delinquency, college cheating, and many of the other weaknesses that flesh is heir to are found in Utah, often in amounts quite comparable to the national picture.

MORMONISM TODAY, perhaps like America today, stands in the midst of a great transition, whose eventual issue is unclear. Of tomorrow, it can only be said that tomorrow will be different.



THE VIEW OF FRUITA VALLEY FROM THE ENTRANCE TO COHAB CANYON

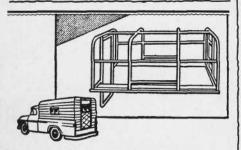
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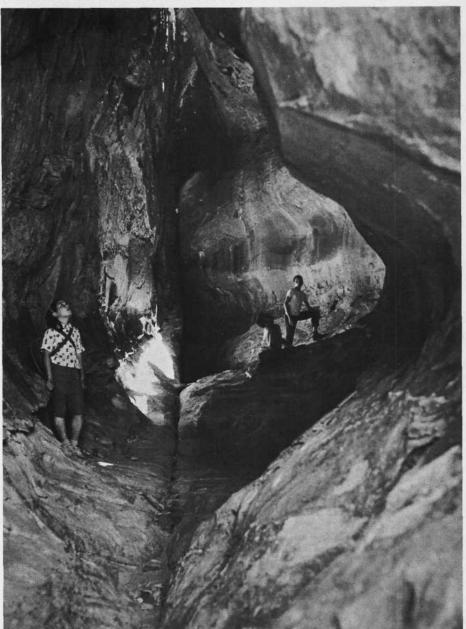
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ANY times my mother told me about M grandfather's two wives who lived with him under the same roof and whose children mingled like chicks in a chicken pen. Her stories about her Mother Ruth and "Aunt" Christina living together, working together, and both trying to please the same man were always interesting, but it wasn't until I visited Capitol Reef National Monument last year and climbed up the steep talus many hundreds of feet to find the narrow entrance to Cohab Canyon did I begin to realize the hunted life led by the Mormon polygamists.

In 1887, when Congress passed the law prohibiting a man from having more than one wife, thousands of Mormon Polygamists were immediately classified as criminals. Federal Marshals were appointed to search out the polygamists and serve notice of time and place of trial. The polygamist had to either deny and forsake all but one

wife or go to prison. To deny a wife and children would drain the lifeblood from their religion, for on this principle of polygamy hinged the growth and glory of their godlife after death. To voluntarily go to prison would deprive their large families of the paternal guidance and assis-tance necessary for subsistence in this new land. To hide like a criminal belittled the "chosen people" and goaded them into resentment and hatred. And to each Mormon this problem came with crushing

As we stood at the entrance to Cohab Canyon looking at the variegated valley far below, I wondered why this spot was the only place in Utah named to commemorate those trying and confusing times. (The name Cohab is a contraction of the word cohabitation.) To this split in the mountain, polygamists came from all the small farming settlements for many miles around. The zigzag trail led up the steep talus

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over a half-mile to the entrance. This opening, a scant 100 feet wide in the massive vertical escarpment rising 300 feet above the talus, could not be seen from the valley unless one stood in the right place and knew exactly where to look.

Standing at the entrance, we looked down into the funnel-like canyon which appears suspended between vertical rock walls. The floor of the canyon slopes downward as far as one can see until it merges into creviced cliffs. A winding trail leads down into the canyon. We climbed a 15-foot ladder fastened securely to the rock wall, and were surprised to discover the huge natural cave cut 40 feet into the sandstone. The cave was large enough to house six or seven people comfortably.

While the polygamists waited in the cave for the all clear signal that would send them back to their homes, they probably sat in groups and discussed their religious beliefs or the hardships of farming the almost barren land that Brigham Young had decreed for them long before his death in 1877. The cool evening breezes funneling down the canyon would make them huddle together and their discussions would help them forget the chill coolness of night. And here in their forced solitude of persecution they must have found joy in a stronger faith. "Man is that he might have joy," was one of the first teachings of Joseph Smith, a pronouncement that the world might think on more seriously in these days of distrustful cold war.

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Dry Arrangers Prize this Desert Weed

By FRANK DUNN

JHAT a fantastic stem, and how it enhances your table arrangement!" So say devotees of flower art and dry arrangement who gaze upon the common desert weed known as Mare's Tail. The ranchers have a different opinion. They classify Mare's Tail as a "miserable pest."

Choking the desert ranchers' water ditches or taking over a waning crop area seems to be the modus operandi of this delightful rogue. Certainly the tractor and plow make short work of it in the field, but not so in the sluices or channels of the watering The plant's twisted and gnarled root structure makes it quite a chore to eradicate, if permitted too much of a head start. Almost any place in the desert where this thirsty outlaw can filch a reasonable supply of water is where it will set up housekeeping. Even alongside some of our desert highways where planting is encouraged by occasional watering plus the run-off of our limited rainfall, Mare's Tail will pop up to exert his loathsome charm.

An infinitesimally small percentage of the stems depart from their usual soldier-like straightness to embark on a rampage of gyroscopic distortion. And only a very small percentage of that small percentage will twist gracefully and artistically enough to satisfy the floral artist. Thus, the real choice specimens are very rare, and in most patches non-existent. I've known some sensational freaks to bring as much as \$12 or \$15 per stem, while the common twisters bring an average \$3 to \$5.

Invariably at the floral competitions, the blue ribbon winners will contain one or more of these charmers. The contestant need not be too dexterous an arranger so long as he has a Mare's Tail or two, for its exciting eye-appeal will more than compensate for any artistic deficiency.

Late summer through October is the best time to hunt down this gorgeous culprit; cut long stems so you can shorten them to the desired length when you are ready to make your display. Some folks can't wait for maturity and will gather Mare's Tail while they are still green. They are a bit sticky at this time and give off a not-too-pleasant odor.



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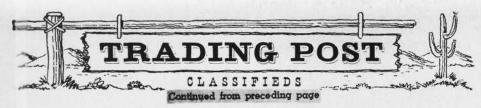
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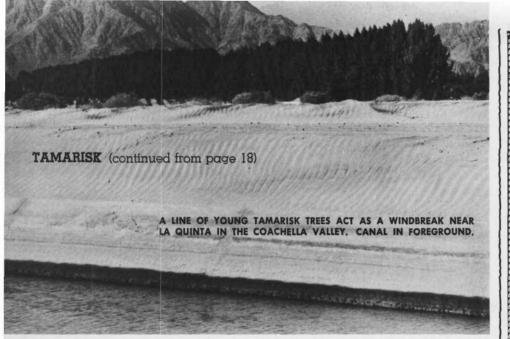
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that the trees are maintaining an upright position, seemingly uninfluenced by the almost constant side-pressure of winds moving eastward through San Gorgonio Pass.

Only those who see this unusually handsome tree in summer realize its full beauty, for then it comes into flower, its myriads of small white-topink flowerlets forming beautiful mistlike sprays of richest color.

Both the mourning dove and the white-winged dove nest in the tamarisk's shady branches. The roadrunner at times nests there too, often seeking the tamarisk's shade during the hottest part of summer's long days. The handsome Gambel quail leaves its footprints on the sands beneath the Athel. The Nuttal poorwill may be seen sitting in the shade on the ground or on the lower branches. The Nubian nightjar, a quite similar bird common in the Middle East, has a race occurring in Jordan called the Tamarix Nightjar because of its similar frequency about the tamarisk bushes of the Dead Sea Depression.

Locally-grown tamarisks are sometimes called salt cedars because they not only thrive in soils rich in alkalies and common salt, but because they also exude salt from special small epidermal cells of the leaves and flowers. Salt crystals accumulate until the leaf-ensheathed branchlets appear hoary. When rain comes, this salt is dissolved. Falling to earth, it recrystalizes to form a thin white encrustation on the ground.

In Iraq and parts of Asia Minor, there is a subspecies of the Tamarix gallica which produces a white sub-stance which drops from the stems in June. Its formation is associated

with one of the scale insects which punctures the stem or leaves. Soon honeylike drops appear and solidify. The Bedouins gather this sweet sugary substance and eat it on their bread. This is probably the manna (Arabic man) referred to in the Bible.

Our American-grown tamarisks are relatively free from disease and parasites. However, I infrequently find a hard ball-shaped gall of unknown origin forming on the smaller branches of the Athel.

I beg those who love beauty to journey, when autumn days come, to the lower Colorado River and there see its tamarisk thickets turning coppery gold. Especially impressive are the tamarisk colors when contrasted with soft golden-vellow of intermixed Fremont's cottonwoods and river-bank willows-all with the broad spread of clear blue sky above and the blue-gray waters of the river between. If it is evening, the distant barrenrock mountains may form a backdrop of sunset magenta-a combination surpassing artistic perfection.///



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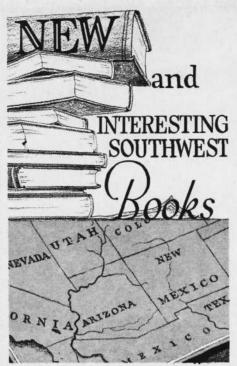


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UCH is known of the historic Anza expeditions from Sonora to Alta California in 1774 and 1776, for his carefully planned trips were faithfully and fully documented. Following Anza's trips, a long period of silence settled over the trails that crossed the Sonoran and Colorado deserts. It was half a century after Anza that Captain Don Jose Romero, in the service of Mexican officials, led "exploring" parties on two (and perhaps a third) trips into the desert wastelands, searching for an overland route that would enable the travelers -government messengers, colonists, padres, and soldiers-to trade between Sonora and Tucson and Alta California without having to cross the trails of the warlike Yumas. THE ROMERO EXPEDITIONS, 1823-1826, is the result of translation and annotation of Romero's journeys by Lowell J. Bean and William M. Mason. Published by the Palm Springs Desert Museum, THE ROMERO EXPEDITIONS is a valuable report on some of the first recorded observations in the Coachella Valley area. Historians will find the book an important "fill-in" for a previously quiet" period of Desert Southwest exploration. There are a few illustrations in the book's 117 pages. It is of high quality printing, with 21 pages of notes and three pages of bibliography.

A latter-day explorer in the Sonoran Desert, William J. Schaldach, has authored PATH TO ENCHANTMENT, a large format book of some 226 pages that are filled with Schaldach's sketches and informal text. The author is a painter and

writer who has spent two decades in the Sonora country. His topics range from Padre Kino's gifts to the desert and how to get rid of the kissing bugs to the alcoholic proof of "fiery tequila." Nature lovers who also dote on Mexico will find PATH TO ENCHANTMENT a delightful "return" to Sonora.

The Desert Botanical Garden of Phoenix has put to press one of its science bulletins entitled CACTI OF THE SOUTHWEST, written by W. Hubert Earle. The booklet, available in either papercover or hardcover, is designed for the layman, yet of value to the serious student of cacti. The range covered is the desert corner of California, southern Nevada, Arizona, and eastern New Mexico. There are many illustrations in the book's 110 pages. A short text accompanies each photo, plus type locality and distribution.

CHARLES E. SHELTON

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PATH TO ENCHANTMENT, by William J. Schaldach; 226 pages; hardcover; \$10.

CACTI OF THE SOUTHWEST, by W. Hubert Earle; 110 pages; papercover, \$1.50; hardcover, \$2.75.

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deserf defours

by Oren Arnold

"Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while." Mark 6:31

Next to Christmas, this is the finest season of the year. It's a rare day in May when poets aren't turning out a couplet or two, and by June they are soaring to the inspirational heights. On a rare day in 1848 Jim Lowell asked the world "What is so rare as a day in June?" Jim never saw our desert, but he sensed the feeling of our close-to-nature people. His was an era when people took time to think of these quieter, more rewarding concepts. Is there a possibility of restoring it?

The blossoms and the bees are back, and—we might as well admit it—so are the slugs and bugs. My desert garden has been a profusion of beauty, and of work. As with all of life.

June is the season when every newcomer to the desert asks us old timers, "Is it hot enough for you?" Well, darn it, it is, of course. But do they have to bring the matter up? Can't they just string along with the rest of us, in happy self-delusion?

"When I want to fry a steak this time of year," alleges old Alkali Ike of La Quinta, "I just hold it out the window on a pan for three minutes. Have to time it carefully, or it'll burn."

My mother, an East Texas woman, would be appalled at the way we desert folks dress in summer. Or undress. Mother somehow grew up in the feeling that virtually any exposure of the female form was sinful, and that much of the male form might best be covered for esthetic reasons if no other. Well, God bless her memory, times have changed, and we go around nine-tenths naked. And while I'm a little more lenient about the females, I still agree with her that male knees are like cows' hips—more useful than beautiful.

"Second most beautiful animal sight in the world," my father used to say, staring at a pretty woman riding a horse, "is a horse." He let us boys decide what was first; and it wasn't hard to do.

* * *

On a desert picnic one Sunday last June a group of us old marrieds came onto another picnic of about 40 college couples. We were fascinated by the flora and fauna, the rocks and cliffs, the hills and canyons, for truly the desert is wonderful. They were fascinated by each other, for truly love is wonderful.

"June," says Jim Lacey, "is when you plan the family vacation, buy new tubeless tires, get reservations at some posh resort, laugh at the slaves left in your office, and your children all come down with the mumps."

People get married in June. But it's their own fault, and they should not blame the government.

With all that heat, June has its rewards. Such as kissing brides. But generally I am opposed to any more of you young friends of ours getting married. It's got to where June costs me more for wedding gifts than December costs me for Christmas gifts.

My granddaughter Robin has a "darling"— I quote her — turtle caught on the desert. The critter now has her name painted on its back. Her mother and grandmother take a dim view of such a pet, especially when she wants to take it to bed with her. But then, Robin is still a tomboy; give her a few years, and she too will shriek at such doings.

If I was reforming the world, I'd have no human inhabitants except me and children aged 2 to 8. We'd have red-andgold desert hills to climb, with green-to-gold trees up a few yards and water falls bouncing down to cool swimming pools. We'd have obsequious servants—never mind where we'd get them—cooking us hot dogs, hamburgers, candy and ice cream cones—nothing else—all day long. And broth-er, would we ever be happy!

This is a year of peace. I mean from politicians. But their kind is reproducing, and next year they'll swarm again. All I hope is that they don't raise our American standards of living any higher; I can't afford the ones we have now.

An old bearded prospector came to town, and we invited him to church. He accepted. But I felt called on to apologize for what I figured was a poor sermon that day. He eyed me carefully and said, "Young man (he called me young!) any sermon will be better if you listen as a Christian instead of as a critic."

Down at Yuma two fathers and two sons worked on a job together and agreed to divide their pay equally between them. They received \$15 in one-dollar bills. Each got an equal share without changing the bills. How?

(Don't write me for the answer. Think!)

Found a fine man living this year as a hermit on the desert to cure himself of alcoholism. Succeeding, too. "The whole trouble with people who 'drink like fish'," said he, "is that they don't drink what the fishes do."

If it isn't "hot enough for you" now, it will be soon; in July and August come the test for all us desert dwellers. Our cue is to slow down, physically and mentally. Close out the worry routine, sit, fan, gently meditate.

In times of rest, I find, peace seeps in. Seeps, mind you, not rushes; peace never rushes. Inner peace. So—read your Bible—you've always been going to, remember? From your shady spot, look out at the warming hills and offer a prayer of relinquishment—"Dear Lord, here is the rest of my life. Use it as You will."

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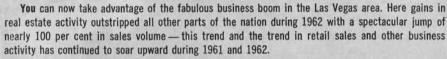
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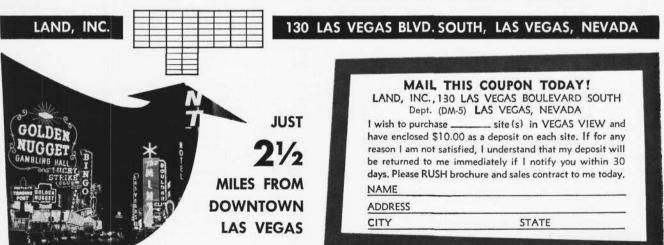
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